UK

USER MANUAL

Blues™ 200

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INTRODUCTION

Your new VELA Blues 200 powerchair is designed to make your life easier. We have developed an extremely compact powerchair for indoor use. With the drive wheels placed in the middle, it requires very little space. VELA Blues 200 is designed for simple and logical operation.

When you move about indoors, you will appreciate being able to raise the seat to reach across a table or take something down from a shelf. The seat lift is operated from the powerchair's control box or – depending on the individual construction of the chair – from a separate tilt switch. The mid-wheel drive permits operation in very narrow spaces. After some getting used to, it will quickly feel safe and natural. It can easily handle outdoor use, as long as there is solid ground under the wheels.

We hope that your will be happy with your VELA Blues 200. By taking a few minutes to read this manual, you will quickly gain an overview of the construction and possibilities offered by the VELA Blues 200. Please keep this manual for future reference.

Enjoy your VELA Blues 200.

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1.0. USER MANUAL

This powerchair is a class A (EN 12184) electric wheelchair. The first attempts to operate the chair should be made in an area with plenty of floor space. Choose a low operating speed (press the 'down button' a few times) until you have become accustomed to the chair.

1.1. BEFORE OPERATION

Before starting the powerchair, you should check the following:

- The footrest is in place and both feet are placed properly on the footplate.
- The electric lift (seat lift) is in the lowest position.
- The electric tilt (seat tilt) is in neutral position.
- Both motors are connected (both disconnection arms are horizontal).
- The powerchair is turned on by pressing the I/O button.

1.1.1. ENTERING AND EXITING

Always turn off the power before entering or exiting the chair (the I/0 button).

1.1.2. FOOTPLATE

The footplate can be folded up to allow you to place your feet on the floor.

Warning! Do not stand on the footplate or footrests – the chair can tip and you may loose your balance.

1.1.3. ASSISTANCE EXITING THE CHAIR

The electric seat lift can help in connection with entering and exiting the chair. For instance, the electric seat lift can be placed in the highest position before sliding out over the front edge of the seat with legs as stretched out as possible. The reverse procedure can be followed when entering the chair.

If the powerchair is equipped with a power tilt function, tilting the seat can be very helpful when exiting the chair: With the seat tilted forwards, not as much strength is needed to climb out of the chair. Do the opposite when entering the chair: With the seat tilted backwards it is easier to climb into the chair.

1.2. SITTING POSITION

A correct sitting position is achieved when the chair back is placed with approx. three fingers of space between the front edge of the seat and the hollows of the knees. The chair back can be moved (using tools) forwards and backwards above the seat to adjust the seat depth (see 1.2.6.). The armrests are in the correct position when the user is sitting up straight with elbows in to the body and arms resting comfortably without lifting the shoulder blades.

1.2.1. ARMRESTS, FIXED

The height of the armrests can be adjusted by loosening the bolt (using tools) on the armrest bar. Tighten again at the desired height. The depth of the armrests, i.e. position in relation to the front edge of the seat, can be adjusted by loosening the two bolts in the armrest support.
The armrests can then be pushed forward and backward on the seat's c-rail. Tighten again in the desired position.

1.2.2. ARMRESTS, FOLDING

As an optional feature, the VELA Blues 200 powerchair can be equipped with folding armrests. The height of the armrests can be adjusted by loosening the handle on the armrest bar. Tighten again in the desired position. It is possible to adjust the angle of the armrest pillow by adjusting the top screw on the armrest bar (visible when folded up).

1.2.3. SEAT HEIGHT

The VELA Blues 200 has an electric seat lift as standard equipment. The electric lift function is operated (standard) from the control box. Choose the electric lift function by pressing the function button and pushing the joystick forwards to move the seat up or backwards to move the seat down. Depending on how the powerchair is equipped, the electric lift function may be located in a tilt switch (optional).

NOTE! For safety reasons, the electric lift must be at the lowest position before driving on uneven terrain or sloping surfaces, before driving the chair long distances or before operation at the highest speed.

NOTE! For your own safety, the powerchair is equipped with an automatic safety circuit that reduces the speed by 50% when the electric tilt is raised 7 cm or more above the lowest position.

1.2.4. CHAIR BACK

The chair back features an adjustable shoulder support. By loosening the two hand screws, it is possible to tilt the shoulder support forwards or backwards. To raise the chair back, loosen the two bolts on the telescopic tube which is visible when the shoulder support is folded back. The height of the chair back can now be adjusted and increased by up to 10 cm.

Depending on how the powerchair is equipped, it may have: fixed back tilt, manual back tilt or electric back tilt.

The fixed back tilt can be regulated (using tools) by adjusting the tilt pole behind the chair back. The pole can be released from the ball shaft at one end and either extended or shortened by turning the ends in the middle piece. The manual back tilt can be adjusted using the gas spring handle (push down) while pushing the chair back into the desired position. Release the handle to secure the chair back again.

The electric chair tilt can be operated from the tilt switch (normally located on the same side as the control box).

1.2.5. NECK SUPPORT

The height and position of the neck support (optional) are adjustable. By loosening both hand screws, the neck support can be positioned as desired.

NOTE! If you need to raise the neck support, it is possible to raise the shoulder support, see above.

1.2.6. SEAT DEPTH

The seat depth can be regulated by pushing the chair back forwards or backwards on the two c-rails: Loosen the two screws on either side from the back hinge and release the sliding bar for the back tilt. The chair back can then be pushed forwards or backwards.

NOTE! Make sure to carefully tighten all bolts after adjustment.

1.2.7. POWER TILT/SEAT TILT

Depending on how the powerchair is equipped, it may have: fixed seat tilt or electric seat tilt. The fixed seat tilt can be adjusted by regulating the bar's support plate. (Request technical assistance.)

The electric seat tilt is operated (standard) from the control box. Choose the electric lift function by pressing on the function button and pushing the joystick forwards to move the seat forwards or backwards to move the seat backwards.
Depending on how the powerchair is equipped, the electric lift function may be located in a tilt switch (optional).

1.3. OPERATION

1.3.1. VR2 CONTROL BOX

The VELA Blues 200 will normally be equipped with a VR2 control box. The powerchair is turned on and off on the I/0 button.The 'speed up' button increases operating speed: Press the button repeatedly and you will see the indicator light move up.

The 'speed down' button reduces operating speed: Press the button repeatedly and you will see the indicator light move down.
Force to mange the joystick:
Forward/backward: 1.3Nm
Sideways: 1.0 Nm

Two of the powerchair's functions are controlled from the control box (normally lift and tilt). Choose one of the functions by pressing the function button, pushing the joystick forwards to move forwards or backwards to move backwards. (It is possible to change between the two functions by moving the joystick to the side). The control box has a signal horn.
It is not possible for the user to re-program the control box.

1.3.2. PILOT+ CONTROL BOX (OPTIONAL)

As an optional feature, the powerchair can be equipped with a Pilot+ control box. The powerchair is turned on and off on the I/0 button. The function button allows you to switch between the various functions: Press the function button once and immediately move the joystick to the side. You will note that various indicator lights on the control box show which (of up to five possible) functions are activated: electric lift, seat tilt, chair back tilt, footrest right, footrest left. Every time the joystick is moved to the side, it changes to a new function. To operate a function, push the joystick forwards (UP) or backwards (DOWN).

Speed: The first option is to adjust speed. When the number in the display flashes, you can increase your speed by pushing the joystick forwards or decrease it by pushing the joystick backwards. (The speed will appear as a number from 1 to 5 on the display.)

When you want to move again, press the function button and the powerchair will return to the Drive position where the joystick is pushed forwards to move forwards.
Force to mange the joystick:
Forward/backward: 1.3Nm
Sideways: 1.0 Nm

1.3.3. STEERING WITH JOYSTICK

Move the joystick in the direction you want the chair to move. Acceleration and speed are controlled by moving the joystick: Large movement = fast acceleration and high speed. Small movement = slow acceleration and low speed.

It is not possible for the user to reprogram the control box.

Warning! Do not subject the joystick and control box to vertical pressure and do not push hard on the joystick as this can damage parts in the box!

1.3.4. DESCRIPTION OF THE POWERCHAIR CONTROLS

Pushing the joystick forwards activates both wheels synchronously, and the chair moves forwards. Pushing the joystick backwards activates both wheels synchronously, and the chair moves in the opposite direction. If the joystick is pushed diagonally in one direction, the speed is distributed between the two wheels asynchronously (and in some cases in opposite directions). This will cause the chair to move on a path in the desired direction.

NOTE! When changing directions, the chair's swivel wheels must change position: They will swing on the axel of the front fork until the wheels are pointing in the direction you wish to go. When the powerchair is standing still before changing direction in this way, a lot of motor power is needed to drive the wheels. This power can cause a jolt to the front end (leg supports) or back end (if the chair is front-wheel drive) of the chair. The effects of this jolt can be minimised by increasing power gradually and moderately (small movements of the joystick).

Warning!

Despite an approved EMC test, we make no guarantee that the powerchair is not affected by electromagnetic fields from e.g. mobile phones and radio transmitters, or that the powerchair does not transmit electromagnetic fields that can affect its surroundings, such as e.g. shop security systems.

1.3.5. NEGOTIATING OBSTACLES

The VELA Blues 200 can handle a difference in surface level of up to 4 cm, which makes it possible to cross e.g. doorsteps and many types of ramps. Always drive as straight as possible when negotiating such obstacles. For abrupt changes in level, it helps to increase the length and speed of your approach.

Warning! The electric seat lift must be lowered to the lowest position before negotiating obstacles as a raised seat reduces stability and can cause the chair to tip over!

1.3.6. NEGOTIATING SLOPING SURFACES

The powerchair has enough traction to negotiate standard household ramps.
(Max. gradient with load of 75 kg: 12°). When moving down ramps, the chair must always move perpendicular to the sloping surface and at a slow speed.

Warning! The electric seat lift must always be lowered to the lowest position before negotiating sloping surfaces as a raised seat reduces stability and can cause the chair to tip over!

Warning! The chair must never be driven diagonally or sideways across a sloping surface as this can cause the chair to tip over!

1.3.7. BRAKING

To stop the powerchair, return the joystick to the central position or let go of it.

1.3.8. ELECTRIC BRAKE

The VELA Blues 200 is equipped with an electric brake that is activated automatically moments after the drive motors stop. This brake ensures that the chair is fully locked when entering and exiting, parking on ramps etc.

1.3.8.1. EMERGENCY BRAKE

The powerchair can be stopped immediately by turning it off: Press the I/0 button.

Warning! When the powerchair is turned off, the electric brake is activated immediately. This will cause a very sudden stop. The chair must therefore only in emergencies be turned off while it is still moving. There is a risk of the user falling out of the chair! There is a risk of the chair tipping over!

1.3.8.2. DISENGAGEMENT

Should it be necessary to manoeuvre the chair manually, the electric brake and motor can be disengaged using the two disconnection arms under the protective motor cover.

Note! It is not possible to operate the Blues 200 powerchair electrically when the disengagement function is in use. Push both disconnection arms back into the horizontal position immediately after manoeuvring the chair.

Warning! Do not attempt to manoeuvre the chair manually when the motor is still in gear, when the chair is on a sloping surface, on a landing or in a similar situation where the chair might start rolling or run out of control.

1.3.9. STANDING STILL AND PARKING

Always use the I/0 button to turn the powerchair off as soon as you no longer want to drive it.

NOTE! When the chair is turned on, battery power is consumed. It is therefore a good idea to turn off the chair when it is parked.

1.4. FOOTRESTS

1.4.1. FOLDING FOOTPLATES

The VELA Blues 200 is equipped with a solid footplate. The footplate is attached to the undercarriage and can be folded up when not in use.

1.4.2. ELECTRIC SWIVEL FOOTRESTS (OPTIONAL)

The VELA Blues 200 can also be equipped with a set of adjustable footrests. The footrest can be moved out of the way when entering and exiting the chair by lifting the bar approx. 3 cm up and swinging the footrest around the side at the same time. The depth of the footrest can be adjusted using the tool for adjusting the sliding bar in the seat frame either forwards or backwards.

The footrest can be adjusted to suit leg length by regulating the length bar in its hollow tube. Using tools, the foot angle can be adjusted by adjusting the swivel part of the footplate.

1.4.3. ELECTRICALLY OPERATED W-LEG SUPPORTS (OPTIONAL)

This type of leg support can be raised electrically to almost a horizontal position. They are operated from the tilt switch or from the control box (if the chair is equipped with the Pilot+ option). The leg supports are operated individually.

Each leg support can be moved out of the way when entering and exiting the chair by pushing the lock latch in and simultaneously opening the leg support by swinging it around to the side. Now the leg support can be removed or it can remain in the open position when entering or exiting the chair.

The depth of the footrest can be adjusted using the tool for adjusting the hinge forwards or backwards on the seat's c-rail. Adjust the length of the leg using tools by regulating the length bar which is kept in place by a bolt. The foot angle can be adjusted using the tool in the swivel part of the footplate.

1.4.4. HEEL STOPS

It is possible to fit heel stops to the footrests.

1.5. POSITION OF CONTROL BOX

1.5.1. FIXED SUPPORT

The control box is mounted on either the right or the left side according to customer specifications. The joystick is mounted as standard on a fixed support. Its position can be regulated forwards or backwards in relation to the armrest: Loosen the bolt on the sliding bar and place the control box in the desired position.

1.5.2. CATCH BOLT FITTING (OPTIONAL)

The easily adjustable catch bolt fitting makes it possible to lower the control box so that the chair can e.g. come all the way up to a table. The catch bolt is released by lightly pressing the polished lock handle forward. It can be operated either from the side or from the front. When the control box is pulled up and back into the operating position, the catch bolt automatically locks into place.

The position of the control box can be regulated forwards or backwards in relation to the armrest: Loosen the bolt on the sliding bar and place the control box in the desired position.

1.5.3. PARALLEL FITTING (OPTIONAL)

The powerchair can be equipped with a swivel parallel fitting that makes it possible to move the control box back along the armrest so that the chair can e.g. come all the way up to a table.

The position of the control box can be regulated forwards or backwards in relation to the armrest: Loosen the bolt on the sliding bar and place the control box in the desired position.

1.6. HIP STRAP

It is possible to equip the chair with a hip strap. This can be fitted to the chair as shown in the accompanying guide.

2.0. SAFETY POINTS

For your safety, the following should always be observed:

- The VELA Blues 200 is designed for limited outdoor use. It should only be operated on even and firm surfaces in places where the user feels confident.

- It must not be used outdoors at dusk or in the dark.

- The VELA Blues 200 is as standard not approved as a passenger seat for use in cars, buses or trains.

- The chair is not designed to be lifted during transport.

- Always make sure that the powerchair is secured using approved lashing equipment during transport in cars, buses, trains etc.

- Never stand on the footplates when entering or exiting the chair as this can cause the chair to tip over.

- Always lower the electric seat lift to the lowest position before negotiating obstacles and before moving at high speeds.

- Always lower the electric seat lift to the lowest position before negotiating sloping sur faces.

- Never drive sideways or diagonally on a sloping surface as this can cause the chair to tip over.

- The chair must never be exposed to rain or extreme moisture as it can damage the electronics.

- Never cover the battery charging unit during recharging as it produces heat. The battery charging unit must be placed on a firm, well-ventilated surface.

- When moving backwards and when operating the electric functions, make sure that other people are well out of the way.

- The wheelchair can be configured for use as a passenger seat during transport, but only as a specially configured version (see item 6 re. transport)

3.0. MAINTENANCE

3.0.1. BATTERIES

The VELA Blues 200 is equipped with two 34 Ah maintenance-free and vapour-free batteries. Good-quality new batteries provide the equivalent of an operating range of 18 km. Experience shows that this covers the daily needs of most users. The batteries are dimensioned to be fully run down 220 times. Their lifetime will be extended significantly if they are only partially run down before charging. Defective batteries must be replaced with batteries of the same type. We recommend that batteries be replaced by a service technician.

NOTE! When installing batteries, extreme care must be taken to connect +/- correctly. Red wire to the + pole. Incorrect connection can damage the powerchair's electronics.

NOTE! Batteries must not be disposed of with ordinary household rubbish. Used batteries and other electrical equipment must be deposited at an approved recycling centre according to the marking on the product.

3.1. CHARGING

3.1.1. BATTERY INDICATOR

The control box has a built-in battery indicator. For fully charged batteries, three groups of coloured LEDs light up. During use, the voltage in the batteries falls, and the row of lights decreases: The lights go off one at a time.

- Green signal = DRIVE
- Yellow signal = Recharging needed soon
- Red signal = Recharging needed immediately

The battery indicator will flash to call attention to low battery power.

3.1.2. BATTERY CHARGING UNIT

Batteries are charged using the accompanying charging unit (e.g. Classic 8A). The charging time is approx. 8 hours, depending on battery status. It is recommended that the batteries be charged every night. The Universal 6a charging unit is fully automatic and controls power and voltage during charging. When the batteries are fully charged, power consumption will be minimal, so you can safely leave the charging unit connected until the next time you use your VELA Blues 200.

3.1.3. WHAT TO DO

1. Park the chair and turn off the power (press the I/0 button).
2. Plug the charging unit into the socket on the front of the underside of the control box. **NOTE!** The chair cannot be turned on when the charging unit is connected.
3. Plug the charging unit to the mains power (230 V) and turn it on. The yellow light on the front panel of the charger shows that the batteries are being charged.
4. When the batteries are fully charged, the 'completed' light on the front panel of the charger will be green.

NOTE! For extended periods of disuse (days/weeks/months), the battery charger should be connected to ensure optimum power when your VELA Blues 200 is used again.

NOTE! In some cases, batteries that have been run down too far (flat) cannot be recharged by the Universal 6a charging unit. This is for your own safety, because dangerous vapours can develop when flat batteries are recharged.Call your VELA service technician.

4.0. MAINTENANCE AND TROUBLESHOOTING

4.0.1. CLEANING

Wipe/wash the wheels as needed using mild soap and water. Wipe the protective motor cover with a soft cloth. Do not use abrasive sponges or brushes. Clean the seat and back with a vacuum cleaner or a brush. The fabric is a standard wool type, which has been chosen for optimum comfort. It is not recommended that the seat cover be washed as it may shrink. Dry-clean only.

The control box can be cleaned with a damp cloth and a little washing-up liquid if necessary. The armrests can be wiped off with a damp cloth and warm soapy water if necessary. The armrest is normally covered in leather, and organic solvents must therefore never be used.

4.0.2. MAINTENANCE

Daily maintenance can be carried out by the user. Repairs and servicing must be carried out by trained service staff or by a VELA service technician. It is recommended that the powerchair is serviced once a year by a VELA service technician when all moving parts will be lubricated and checked for wear.

4.0.3. TROUBLESHOOTING

If your VELA Blues 200 should stop working, check the following first:

Connection handles

Overload protection

CHAIR DOES NOT START

- Check that the connection handles are in the Drive position.
- Check the battery to see whether it is charged.
- Check that the overload protection is disengaged: Press the overload switch all the way in (when the overload protection is disengaged, the battery indicator will flash brightly).

THE POWERCHAIR RUNS SLOWLY

- Check that the seat is in the lowest position.
- Check that the speed selector on the control box is on max.

CHAIR LOSES POWER

- Check that the charging unit is connected correctly.
- Check that the charging functions normally (read LED lights on front panel of charger).
- Call a service technician to have the condition/age of batteries checked.
- Call a service technician to have the wiring to batteries checked.

PART	MAINTENANCE CARRIED OUT BY	MAINTENANCE	INTERVAL
WHEELS	User	Check that the tyres are not worn and that stones or other objects are not sitting in the tread. If the wheels are pneumatic, check the air pressure, which must be between 2.20-3.5 Kilo Pascal. The wheel can be inflated with either a car pump or at a service station.	Once a month, depending on use
CHANGING WHEELS	VELA	Contact VELA	
CONTROL BOX	User	The control box and the rubber seal around the joystick must always be kept clean. Once a week, you should check that the joystick returns to its original position and that the rubber seal has not been damaged. If this is not the case, contact VELA.	Once a week
TESTING CONTROL BOX FUNCTIONS	User	1. Check the on-off switch. 2. Check the horn. 3. Check the speed – try accelerating and decelerating. 4. Check the seat lift – raise and lower the seat to its full extent. 5. Check the seat tilt – tilt the seat all the way backwards and all the way forwards. If any of the functions do not work or if anything feels different to normal, contact VELA.	Once a month
BATTERIES	VELA	Batteries must be replaced by VELA. If the batteries are leaking, avoid touching them as the contents are corrosive.	In the event of flat or defective batteries
ACCESSORIES	User	All accessories such as footrests, armrests and body supports must be adjusted using the tools supplied.	Once a month

5.0. WARRANTY AND SERVICE

Your VELA Blues 200 is covered by VELA's 24-month factory warranty for any problems that can be attributed to defects in materials or manufacture. The warranty does not cover parts that suffer wear, such as tyres, batteries, seat covers etc. VELA provides service on weekdays.

6.0. TRANSPORT

The height of the powerchair can be reduced to approx. 85 cm by folding the chair back across the seat. Loosen the pin on the chair back and remove it. Then fold the chair back across the seat.

6.0.1. LASHING RINGS

The powerchair is equipped with four lashing rings placed in the corners of the chair.

Warning! The VELA Blues 200 is not approved as a passenger seat for use in cars, buses or trains. Always make sure that the powerchair is secured using approved lashing equipment during transport in cars, buses, trains etc.

The chair is not designed to be lifted during transport.

7.0. TRANSPORT

LASHING RING (OPTIONAL)
The chair can be fitted with a lashing ring which is used if the chair is to be transported by car, bus or train. The lashing rings can only be mounted if the chair is configured with a C-profile seat frame. (Contact VELA for further information)

PASSENGER SEAT (OPTIONAL)
VELA Blues 100 can be configured for use as the passenger seat of a car. The chair must be constructed as below, and the work must be carried out by a VELA technician or suitably trained personnel.

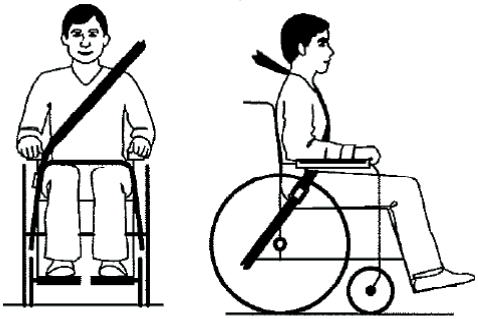
CONFIGURATAION FOR USE AS A PASSENGER SEAT
For the VELA Blues 100 – 200 – 300 to be used as the passenger seat in a car, the chair must be configured as shown below: (in case of doubt please contact VELA)
- SW seat and back system (width 40 – 45 – 50 cm)
- WB head restraint
- Folding or fixed armrest
- Electric or manual chair back
- Electrically operated leg support or E-leg support + swivel footrest

POSITIONING THE 3-POINT SEAT BELT ON THE USER

IMPORTANT: The 3-point seat belt must not be tightened across sharp edges.

The drawing illustrates the incorrect positioning of a 3-point seat belt. The text in the figure states that seatbelts must not be held away from the body by parts of the wheelchair, such as armrests, wheels, etc.

THESE TWO DRAWINGS ILLUSTRATE THE CORRECT POSITIONING OF A 3-POINT SEATBELT
The seatbelt must have full contact with the shoulder, chest and hips.
The lap belt must be positioned as close as possible to the hips.



7.0. TECHNICAL DATA

7.0.1. CHAIR IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

The serial number is found on the chassis between the swivel wheels.

7.0.2. DRIVE MOTORS

Two HCM 560W worm-drive/gear motors.
Built-in electronic disc brakes.

7.0.3. BATTERIES

Two 12V 34Ah gel maintenance-free powerchair batteries.
Charging time approx. 8 timer with Universal 6a battery charging unit.

7.0.4. ELECTRONICS

Power network: 24 Volt DC Signal: analogue wiring PG drivers combined CR2 powerchair electronics Electric lift: VELA Okin actuator BD -
240/160 Tilt actuator: Linak RA60 24 VDC Electric back actuator:
Linak LA28 24 VDC Motorised control: VELA ET3.2 24VDC

7.0.5. CHARGER

Automatic Power Charger Classic 8A / 230 VAC

7.0.6. DIMENSIONS

Seat height	48-68 cm
Seat height front edge (no-load)	55 cm
Height without seat	44 cm
Vehicle width	59 cm
Vehicle length with 1 footplate down	92 cm
Clearance	4 cm
Drive wheels	10" (260x85 mm) flexell
Swivel wheels, front	6" (140 mm)
Swivel wheels, back	5" (120 mm)
Seat tilt, electric	13° back, 4° forward
Back tilt, electric	27° (95° to 122°)

7.0.7. DRIVING PROPERTIES

Max. speed	8 km/h, but supplied as standard throttled down to 6.5 km/h
Range	18 km/h
Max. gradient	12°
Obstacles, max.	4 cm
Turning radius	39 cm
Max. load	125 kg

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